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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 09 SAN SALVADOR 000197

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SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR: 2006 INVESTMENT CLIMATE STATEMENT

REF: STATE 250356

¶1. Per reftel, following is Embassy San Salvador's 2006 Investment Climate Statement.

OPENNESS TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT

¶2. The Government of El Salvador views foreign investment as crucial for economic growth and development and has taken numerous steps in recent years to improve the investment climate. However, the legal system's failure to enforce commercial law consistently or promptly is a black mark on El Salvador's otherwise positive record for encouraging investment. A free trade agreement among Central American countries, the Dominican Republic, and the United States (CAFTA-DR) includes an investment chapter and other chapters that, when implemented, will strengthen investment dispute resolution in El Salvador.

¶3. In 2005, the Ministry of Economy estimated that foreigners invested $602 million in El Salvador in sectors such as hotels, apparel assembly, telecommunications, and beverages. The government has announced a medium-term objective to become a logistics/shipping hub for Central America, and construction of a deep-water port in the Gulf of Fonseca is underway. Salvadoran Central Reserve Bank statistics show that foreign investment stock has steadily increased, reaching $3.2 billion by June 2005, up from $1.97 billion in 2000. Companies from many countries--including the United States, France, Spain, Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, Korea, Taiwan, Chile, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Mexico--have invested in El Salvador.

¶4. The principal laws governing foreign investment in El Salvador are the Investment Law (para. 5), Export Reactivation Law (para. 24), and Free Trade Zones Law (para. 20). Other laws complementing the basic legal framework for investment include the Monetary Integration Law (para. 12), Banking Law (para. 39), Insurance Companies Law (para. 40), Securities Market Law (para. 41), intellectual property laws (paras. 30-32), and special legislation governing privatizations (paras. 7-10). A 2004 Competition Law establishes a Superintendency for Competition to investigate and discipline anticompetitive practices (para 36). In December 2005 the government enacted a tourism law providing specific incentives for investment in that sector (para. 25).

¶5. The 1999 Investment Law grants equal treatment to foreign and domestic investors. With the exception of small businesses (10 or fewer employees and sales of less than $68,571/year), foreign investors may freely establish businesses in El Salvador; investors who begin operations with 10 or fewer employees must present plans to increase employment. The Investment Law created the National Investment Office (ONI) at the Ministry of Economy that serves as a one-stop shop to facilitate the registration of new investments in the country, a process that the World Bank estimates takes 40 days. The law establishes procedures to resolve disputes between foreign investors and the government and eases residence requirements for foreign investors who make significant investments. It also provides that underground resources (minerals) belong to the state, which may grant concessions for their exploitation.

¶6. In 2004, the government reorganized its trade and investment promotion agencies under the Investment and Exports Promotion National Commission (CONADEI), headed by the Vice President. The National Investment Promotion Agency (PROESA) organizes investment promotion tours overseas and provides information and facilitation services in El Salvador. The National Agency for Export Promotion (EXPORTA) focuses on identifying niche markets for Salvadoran exports, especially nontraditional goods, and providing trade capacity building to new exporters.

¶7. The government launched its privatization process in 1990 with the privatization of most of the banking system. Privatization has played an important role in attracting foreign investment, especially in electricity generation and

distribution, telecommunications, and pension funds.

¶8. The Salvadoran electricity sector is divided into generation, transmission, and distribution subsectors. The electricity generation market includes CEL, the state-owned energy company; two U.S. investors, one of which bought three thermal generation plants from CEL in 1999; and La Geo, a private-public geothermal power generation company, and other minor generators. The state-owned ETESAL provides transmission services. Investors from the United States, Chile, and Venezuela bought controlling shares in four electricity distribution companies when the government privatized the sector in 1998; two U.S. investors now provide distribution services for the country. The Transaction Unit (UT), owned by market participants, operates the wholesale energy market.

¶9. Privatization and foreign investment have modernized Salvadoran telecommunications. The only remaining restrictions for foreign investors are on free reception television and AM/FM radio broadcasting, where foreign ownership cannot exceed 49 percent of equity. In 1998, France Telecom purchased 51 percent of CTE, the state-owned fixed-line telephone firm, for $275 million, and Telefonica of Spain paid $41 million for 51 percent of the state-owned wireless firm. The government sold additional shares of the state telephone companies on the Salvadoran securities exchange in 1999. In 2003, America Movil, the Mexican telecommunications giant, bought France Telecom's shares in CTE and other shares owned by the Salvadoran Government; including a December 2004 purchase of additional shares, it now owns 94 percent of CTE. A U.S. long distance telephone service provider has complained that CTE refuses to sign an interconnection agreement with it on terms already extended to another market entrant, as required by Salvadoran law.

¶10. The government created five privatized pension funds in 1998 with the participation of Citibank, Spanish banks Banco Bilbao Vizcaya and Argentaria, and two local investors. After considerable consolidation in the sector, two funds remain, both owned by local investors.

CONVERSION AND TRANSFER POLICIES

¶11. There are no restrictions on transferring funds associated with investment out of the country. Foreign businesses can freely remit or reinvest profits, repatriate capital, and bring in capital for additional investment. The 1999 Investment Law also allows unrestricted remittance of royalties and fees from the use of foreign patents, trademarks, technical assistance, and other services.

¶12. The Monetary Integration Law "dollarized" El Salvador in 2001, and the U.S. dollar now freely circulates and can be used in all transactions; one objective of dollarization was to make El Salvador more attractive to foreign investors. El Salvador has long had a freely convertible currency and since 1994 the colon traded at 8.75 per dollar. The Monetary Integration law fixed the colon at that rate. While prices are often listed in both currencies, the colon is seldom used. U.S. dollars account for nearly all currency in circulation. Salvadoran banks, in accordance with the law, must keep all accounts in dollars. Dollarization is supported by family remittances--almost all from the United States--that were $2.8 billion in 2005, up from $2.4 billion the year before. As of the end of November 2005, the Central Reserve Bank reported international reserves of $1.83 billion.

EXPROPRIATION AND COMPENSATION

¶13. El Salvador's 1983 constitution allows the government to expropriate private property for reasons of public utility or social interest, and indemnification can take place either before or after the fact. There are no recent cases of expropriation. In 1980, a rural/agricultural land reform established that no single natural or legal person could own more than 245 hectares (605 acres) of land. In 1980, the banks were nationalized, but beginning in 1990 they were returned to private ownership.

¶14. A 2003 amendment to the 1996 Electricity Law contains a provision that, while not authorizing expropriation, requires energy generating companies to obtain government approval before removing energy generating assets from the country. According to the government, this provision of the law is intended to prevent energy supply disruptions.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

¶15. While foreign investors can seek redress of commercial disputes with Salvadoran companies through El Salvador's courts, investors have found that seeking resolution of problems through the slow-moving domestic legal system can be costly and unproductive. The course of some cases has shown that the legal system is subject to manipulation by

private interests, and final rulings are sometimes not enforced. Where possible, arbitration clauses, preferably with a foreign venue, should be included in commercial contracts as a means to resolve business disputes. Investors should make sure that all contracts are carefully drafted and that the relationships with local firms are specifically defined. Some U.S. firms have been embroiled in major legal disputes in recent years, in cases where they asserted that a contract with a Salvadoran firm either had formally ended or never existed, but Salvadoran courts have ruled that the contract remained in force.

¶16. El Salvador's commercial law is based on the Commercial Code and the Code for Mercantile Processes. There is a mercantile court system for resolving commercial disputes, although there have been complaints about its slow processes and erratic rulings, particularly at the Supreme Court level. The Commercial Code, Code of Mercantile Processes, and Banking Law contain sections that deal with bankruptcy; there is no separate bankruptcy law or bankruptcy court.

¶17. Article 15 of the 1999 Investment Law states that disputes between foreign investors and the government will be submitted for arbitration to the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), a World Bank affiliated organization. In 2002, the government approved a law to allow private sector organizations to establish arbitration centers for the resolution of commercial disputes, including those involving foreign investors. The first case of commercial arbitration in El Salvador involved a U.S.-owned firm and the parastatal water company. The arbitration panel ruled in favor of the U.S-owned firm, but a legal challenge by the water company relating to the bidding process led the Supreme Court to suspend the proceedings in August 2004 pending a review of the case. Judicial delays are common in El Salvador, and the Supreme Court has yet to review the case.

¶18. Under CAFTA-DR, investor rights will be protected by an effective, impartial procedure for dispute settlement that is fully transparent, as described in chapter 20 of the agreement. Submissions to dispute panels and panel hearings will be open to the public, and interested parties will have the opportunity to submit their views.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS AND INCENTIVES

¶19. El Salvador's Investment Law does not require investors to export specific amounts, transfer technology, incorporate set levels of local content, or fulfill other performance criteria. Foreign investors and domestic firms are eligible for the same export incentives. Exports of goods and services pay zero value added tax.

¶20. The 1998 Free Trade Zones Law is designed to attract investment in a wide range of activities, although at present more than 90 percent of the businesses in export processing zones are "maquila" clothing assembly plants. A Salvadoran partner is not needed to operate in a free zone, and some maquila operations are completely foreign-owned.

¶21. The law established rules for export processing zones (free zones) and bonded areas. The free zones are outside the nation's customs jurisdiction, while the bonded areas are within its jurisdiction but subject to special treatment. Local and foreign companies can establish themselves in a free zone to produce goods or services for export or to provide services linked to international trade. The regulations for the bonded areas are very similar.

¶22. Firms located in the free zones and the bonded areas enjoy the following benefits:
-- Exemption from all duties and taxes on imports of raw materials and the machinery and equipment needed to produce for export.
-- Exemptions from taxes for fuels and lubricants used for producing exports, if these are not domestically produced;
--Exemption from income tax, municipal taxes on company assets and property; and
--Exemption from taxes on real estate transferences that are related to export activity.

¶23. Companies in the free zones are also allowed to sell goods or services in the Salvadoran market if they pay applicable taxes for the proportion sold locally. Additional rules apply to textile and apparel products.

¶24. Under the 1990 Export Reactivation Law firms may apply for tax rebates of 6 percent of the FOB value of manufactured or processed exports shipped outside the Central American Common Market area. These firms need not be located in the free zones or be exporting 100 percent of their output. Exports of coffee, sugar, and cotton can qualify for this rebate if they have undergone a transformation that adds at least 30 percent to their original value. Firms that qualify for these tax rebates

are also eligible for duty exemptions for imported raw materials and intermediate goods used in the assembly of the products to be exported. El Salvador extended the period to eliminate this WTO-inconsistent measure until the end of ¶2009.

¶25. In December 2005, the government approved a new tourism law to spur investment in the sector. The law establishes fiscal incentives for those who invest a minimum of $50,000.00 in tourism related projects in El Salvador. Incentives include an income tax break of 100 percent for 10 years and no duties on imports of capital and other goods, subject to limitations. The investor also benefits from a 5-year exemption from land acquisition taxes, as well as a 50 percent cut in municipal taxes over that period. To take advantage of these incentives, the enterprise must contribute 5 percent of profits during the exemption period to a government-administered Tourism Promotion Fund.

¶26. Those who plan to live and work in El Salvador for an extended period will need to obtain temporary residency, which may be renewed periodically. Under Article 11 of the Investment Law, foreign investors with investments equal to or more than 4,000 minimum monthly wages ($570,000), have the right to receive "Investor's Residence," permitting them to work and stay in the country. Such residency can be requested within 30 days after the investment has been registered. The residency permit covers the investor and his family and is issued for one year, subject to extension on a yearly basis.

¶27. Most companies employ a local lawyer to manage the process of obtaining residency. The American Chamber of Commerce in El Salvador can also help its members with the process. Labor law requires that 90 percent of the labor force at plants and in clerical jobs be Salvadoran. There are fewer restrictions on the professional and technical jobs that can be held by foreigners.

RIGHT TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AND ESTABLISHMENT

¶28. There are restrictions on land ownership. No single natural or legal person--Salvadoran or foreign--can own more than 245 hectares (605 acres). Rural lands cannot be acquired by foreigners from countries where Salvadorans do not enjoy the same right. Foreign citizens and private companies can freely establish businesses in El Salvador. The only exception for this is in some cases involving small business. A 2001 fishing law allows foreigners to engage in commercial fishing anywhere in Salvadoran waters providing they obtain a license from CENDEPESCA, a government entity.

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

¶29. Private property, both movable and real estate, is recognized and protected in El Salvador. Companies that plan to buy land or other real estate are advised to conduct a thorough search of the property's title prior to purchase.

¶30. In December 2005, El Salvador revised several laws to comply with CAFTA-DR's provisions on intellectual property rights (IPR). The Intellectual Property Promotion and Protection Law (1993, revised in 2005), Law of Trademarks and Other Distinctive Signs (2002, revised in 2005), and Penal Code establish the legal framework to protect IPR. Investors must register trademarks, patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property at the National Registry Center's Intellectual Property Office to protect their investments. Reforms passed in 2005 extended the copyright term from 50 to 70 years. New measures extend protection to satellite signals, and for pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals, test data exclusivity will be protected for 5 and 10 years respectively.

¶31. The Attorney General's office and the National Civilian Police enforce these rights by conducting raids against distributors and manufactures of pirated CDs, cassettes, clothes, and computer software. The 2005 reforms authorize the seizure, forfeiture, and destruction of counterfeit and pirated goods and the equipment used to produce them. They also allow authorities to initiate these raids ex-oficio, and piracy is now punishable by jail sentences of two to six years. Investors, however, should know that using the criminal and mercantile courts to seek redress of a violation of intellectual property is often a slow and frustrating process.

¶32. El Salvador is a signatory of the Bern Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms Against Unauthorized Duplication, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty, the WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty, and the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Phonogram Producers, and Broadcasting Organizations.

TRANSPARENCY OF THE REGULATORY SYSTEM

¶33. The laws and regulations of El Salvador are relatively transparent and generally foster competition. Bureaucratic procedures have improved in recent years and are relatively streamlined for foreign investors. However, new foreign investors should review the regulatory environment carefully.

¶34. The Superintendency of Electricity and Telecommunications (SIGET), a regulatory agency modeled after a public utilities commission, regulates electricity and telecommunications. SIGET oversees electricity tariffs, telecommunications, and distribution of electromagnetic frequencies. SIGET's processes and procedures have been in general transparent.

¶35. In April 2003, the government amended the 1996 Electricity Law with the intention of reducing volatility in the wholesale market and thereby stabilizing the level of retail electricity prices. The new law expanded SIGET authority and gave the government the discretion to change the way electricity prices are determined; the government appears to be moving away from the market-based system put in place at the time of privatization to a cost-based dispatch system.

¶36. The 2004 Competition Law defines a series of anticompetitive practices such as collusion to fix prices, limit production, or rig bids. Vertical arrangements, tying (conditioning the sale of one product on the sale of another), and exclusive dealing are also outlawed. Certain abuses of dominant market position are also illegal, for example, creating barriers to entry by other firms, predatory pricing to drive out competitors, price discrimination and similar actions when intended to limit competition will be illegal. The law creates an autonomous Superintendency for Competition that would be responsible for enforcing the law, which took effect January 1, 2006.

EFFICIENT CAPITAL MARKETS AND PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT
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¶37. The Superintendent of the Financial System supervises the banks and other businesses in the financial system. Interest rates are determined by market forces and have decreased significantly since dollarization was implemented. Foreign investors may obtain credit in the local financial market under the same conditions as local investors. Accounting systems are generally consistent with international norms. December 2004 fiscal reforms require that applicants for credit at Salvadoran financial institutions show that they are current in their tax obligations with Salvadoran Government.

¶38. El Salvador's banks are among the largest in Central America. The banking system is sound and in general well managed and supervised. The banking system's total assets as of October 2005 were $11 billion.

¶39. Under the 1999 Banking Law and amendments made in 2002, foreign banks are afforded national treatment and can offer the same services as Salvadoran banks; they can open branches and buy or invest in Salvadoran financial institutions. The law raised the local financial sector standards to international standards, strengthened supervisory authorities, and provided more transparent and secure operations for customers and banks. The law also established an FDIC-like autonomous institution to insure deposits, increased the minimum capital reserve requirement for a bank to 100 million colones ($11.4 million), and sharply limited bank lending to shareholders and directors. The Non-Bank Financial Intermediaries Law regulates the organization, operation, and activities of financial institutions such as cooperative savings associations, nongovernmental organizations, and other microfinance institutions. The Money Laundering Law requires financial institutions to report suspicious transactions to the Attorney General and the Superintendency of the Financial System.

¶40. The 1996 Insurance Companies Law regulates the operation of local insurance firms and accords national treatment to foreign insurance firms. Foreign firms, including U.S., Panamanian and Spanish companies, have invested in Salvadoran insurers.

¶41. The 1994 Securities Market Law established the present form for the Salvadoran securities exchange, which opened in 1992, and has played an important role in the privatization of state enterprises and facilitating foreign portfolio investment. Stocks, government and private bonds, and other financial instruments are traded on the exchange, which is regulated by the Superintendency of Securities. Foreigners can buy stocks, bonds and other instruments sold on the exchange and can have their own securities listed, once

approved by the Superintendent. Companies interested in listing must first register with the National Registry Center's Registry of Commerce. Then they must submit the required documentation to the Superintendent, who will decide whether the security can be traded. The exchange has averaged daily volumes of about $30 million. Government regulated private pension funds and Salvadoran insurance companies are the largest buyers on the Salvadoran securities exchange.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

¶42. El Salvador's 12-year civil war ended in 1992 with a peace agreement. The former guerrilla organization, the FMLN, became a political party and has participated in elections since 1994. There has been no political violence aimed at foreign investors, their businesses, or their property. However, general levels of crime are high and a major concern to the business community.

CORRUPTION

¶43. Soliciting, offering, or accepting a bribe is a criminal act in El Salvador. The Attorney General has a special office, the Anticorruption and Complex Crimes Unit, which handles cases involving corruption by public officials and administrators. The Constitution also established the Court of Accounts that is charged with investigating public officials and entities and, when necessary, passing such cases to the Attorney General for prosecution. In 2005, the government issued a code of ethics for the executive-branch employees, including administrative enforcement mechanisms. El Salvador ratified the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption in 1998.

¶44. When it occurs, corruption is usually at lower governmental levels. However, a recent corruption scandal involved senior officials of the Salvadoran water authority, including its former president. There have been credible complaints about judicial corruption. There is also an active, free press that reports on corruption issues. Another ongoing corruption scandal involves municipal governments and waste disposal contracting.

BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS AND FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS
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¶45. The United States and El Salvador signed a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) in March 1999, which addresses issues such as national treatment for foreign investors, transfers, expropriation, investment disputes, and tax policies. The United States has ratified the treaty but El Salvador has not. The United States concluded free trade agreement negotiations with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua in December 2003 and with Costa Rica in January 2004. In May 2004, the six countries signed the United States - Central America Free Trade Agreement. During 2004, the United States and the Central American countries negotiated with the Dominican Republic to integrate that country into the free trade agreement. On August 5, 2004, the seven countries signed the - Central America - Dominican Republic - United States Free Trade Agreement. El Salvador (December 2004), Honduras (March 2005), Guatemala (March 2005), the United States (July 2005), the Dominican Republic (September 2005), and Nicaragua (October 2005) have ratified the agreement. The investment chapter included in the agreement will offer many of the same measures to protect investors as included in the BIT. The two countries also have a trade and investment council (TIC) framework agreement.

¶46. El Salvador is also negotiating a free trade agreement with Canada, which will contain investment provisions. The five Central American Common Market countries, which include El Salvador, have an investment treaty among themselves. In addition, the free trade agreements that El Salvador has with Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Chile, and Panama contain sections that promote investment.

OPIC AND OTHER INVESTMENT INSURANCE PROGRAMS

¶47. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has a bilateral agreement with El Salvador. The agreement requires the Government of El Salvador to approve all insurance applications. A new agreement is being negotiated that will eliminate this requirement. OPIC insures against currency inconvertibility, expropriation and civil strife, and can also provide corporate project financing and special financing oriented to small business. Because of El Salvador's use of the U.S. dollar, full inconvertibility insurance is not needed, although investors do insure against inability to transfer funds. El Salvador is a member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

LABOR

¶48. El Salvador has a labor force of approximately 2.7 million. Salvadoran labor is perceived as hard working and receptive to training and advanced study. The general educational level is low, and the skilled labor pool is shallow, which may pose problems for investors needing skilled, educated labor. There is a lack of middle management-level talent, which sometimes results in foreigners being brought in to perform such tasks. Employers do not report labor-related difficulties in incorporating technology into their workplaces.

¶49. The Constitution guarantees the right of employees in the private sector to organize into associations and unions. Employers are free to hire union or non-union labor. Closed shops are illegal. Labor law is generally in accordance with internationally recognized standards, but is not enforced consistently by government authorities. The International Labor Organization's Committee on Freedom of Association has expressed concern in a number of cases about the government's failure to apply the protections of workers rights to organize and bargain collectively, as required by International Labor Organization conventions.

FOREIGN TRADE ZONES/FREE TRADE ZONES

¶50. As of December 2005, there were 13 free zones operating in the country. Maquila textile operations constitute the businesses of 12 of the free zones. These firms, mostly owned by Salvadoran, U.S., Taiwanese, and Korean investors, employ approximately 70,000 people. See para. 20 for a discussion of benefits available to investors in these zones.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT STATISTICS

¶51. Accumulated Foreign Investment by Country of Origin
(Millions of Dollars)

Country	2002	2003	2004
United States	880.1	950.1	1,015.5
Mexico	72.7	84.7	616.3
Venezuela	309.5	309.5	309.5
Spain	159.0	161.4	194.9
Panama	100.7	102.3	105.1
Chile	91.5	91.7	92.2
Germany	78.7	84.8	84.9
Bahamas	71.4	72.8	74.2
Costa Rica	69.6	70.3	70.4
Taiwan	42.1	56.9	57.5
Canada	45.8	46.6	56.6
BVI	23.1	29.2	56.2
Guatemala	38.7	48.2	52.1
Netherlands	34.8	39.1	39.1
Nicaragua	32.9	33.2	33.2
Singapore	32.1	32.2	32.5
Italy	26.6	26.6	26.6
Korea, South	14.9	22.9	23.8
Israel	8.5	10.4	22.9
Peru	22.3	22.3	22.3
Honduras	9.3	19.4	21.0
Switzerland	11.7	11.7	15.6
Aruba	15.0	15.0	15.0
Japan	14.2	14.2	14.2
Bermuda	10.6	11.2	12.4
Ecuador	9.0	9.0	9.0
England	6.4	6.4	7.4
France	214.7	214.7	5.8
Other	14.0	19.9	27.2
Total:	2,460.0	2,616.5	3,113.1

Source: Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador

¶52. Annual Foreign Investment Flows in Selected Sectors
(Millions of Dollars)

Sector	2002	2003	2004
Communications	48.6	10.1	337.1
Industry	46.7	30.7	42.4
Maquila	10.1	70.6	38.3
Retail	35.7	25.2	39.0
Agriculture and fishing	8.5	3.0	25.1
Services	19.4	1.5	11.2
Finance	12.1	15.6	3.1
Construction	0.0	0.0	0.0
Electricity	26.7	0.0	0.0
Mining	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total:	207.9	156.6	496.6

Source: Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador

¶53. Foreign Direct Investment as a Percentage of GDP
(Millions of Dollars)

	2002	2003	2004
GDP	14,311.9	14,940.3	15,823.9
FDI stock	2,460.0	2,616.5	3,113.1
FDI flows	207.9	156.5	496.6

FDI stock as a percentage of GDP	17.2	17.5	19.7
FDI flows as a percentage of GDP	1.5	1.0	3.1

Source: Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador

¶54. Partial List of Major Foreign Investors

AES Corporation (USA) -- Electricity distribution
AIG (USA) -- Insurance
AMNET - Cable television and internet
Avery Dennison (USA) -- Labels for clothing
Bayer de El Salvador (German) -- Pharmaceutical processing plant, fertilizer plant
Decameron International (Colombia) - Tourism/hotels
Citigroup (USA) -- Banking
Digicel (USA) -- Cellular telephone service
Dell Computer (USA) -- Customer service/sales call center
Duke Energy (USA) -- Thermal electricity generation plants
Elf (France) -- Propane gas
El Paso Corporation (USA) -- Owner/operator of the Nejapa power/generating plant
EMEL S.A. (Chilean/USA) -- Electricity distribution
Esso Standard Oil (USA) -- Gas stations/small refinery at Acajutla
America Movil (Mexico) -- Fixed and wireless telephone, retail
Fruit of the Loom (USA) - Apparel assembly
Grupo Calvo (Spain) -- Tuna fishing/processing
Holcim (Swiss) - Cement
Intelfon (Panama/El Salvador) - Telecommunications
International Paper (USA) -- Packaging
Lacoste (France) -- Textiles/apparel
Liquidos de Centro America (ELCA) -- liquid packaging company
Kimberly Clark de C.A. (USA) -- Distribution facility
Maseca (Mexico) -- Corn Milling
Max (Guatemala) -- Appliance retailing
Price Smart (USA) -- Member discount store and supermarket
SABMiller (South Africa) -- Beer, sodas, and other beverages
Sara Lee Knit Products (USA) -- Apparel assembly
Shell El Salvador (Netherlands/U.K.) -- Oil refinery (with Esso); Service stations/grocery marts throughout the country.
Telefonica de Espana (Spain) -- Cellular telephones
Telemovil (USA/Luxembourg) -- Cellular telephones
Texaco Caribbean (USA) -- Fuel storage and lubricant blending plant in Acajutla, and service station/grocery markets.
Unisola-Unilever (UK) -- Food products
WalMart (United States) -- Supermarkets